



University of Tennessee, Knoxville Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange

News and Opportunities

Office of Research & Engagement

11-30-2011

Office of Research, News & Opportunities, November 30, 2011

University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Recommended Citation

Office of Research, University of Tennessee, "Office of Research, News & Opportunities, November 30, 2011" (2011). *News and Opportunities*.
http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_researchnews/54

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Expanded program will honor student scholars of the week

The UT Knoxville Office of Research is expanding its Scholar of the Week program to include recognition of accomplished graduate and undergraduate students.

The new recognition – Student Scholar of the Week – will recognize the recent important research, scholarship, and creative accomplishment of both undergraduate and graduate students on the Knoxville campus.

Recognition by peers as an independent, original researcher includes:

- ❖ Publication of original research in refereed journals
- ❖ A major exhibit or performance at a national or international venue
- ❖ A record of national fellowship support
- ❖ National or international prizes or awards
- ❖ Other significant scholarly achievement recommended by the faculty mentor

Students may be nominated by deans, department heads, faculty, and students who have validating information. Nominations should include a short paragraph that includes the department and classification of the scholar, states his or her specific field of work within the discipline, identifies the faculty mentor, and describes the scholar's most recent noteworthy accomplishment. The paragraph may also list significant previous scholarly awards and memberships.

Nominations should be sent to Alan Rutenberg (arutenberg@utk.edu) and should include a photograph or a link to a photograph. Descriptions should be in simple, nontechnical language for a general audience, but when relevant they should also include citations for the benefit of other scholars.

Schedule set for 16th yearly EURēCA event

The annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement will be on March 28 and 29, 2012, in the University Center Ballroom. EURēCA, in its 16th year, spotlights the research and creative activities of currently enrolled UT Knoxville undergraduates and their faculty mentors.

The event includes awards for the top undergraduate exhibits, including departmental honors, top awards from Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, the Harris Undergraduate Research Award, and a \$200 prize from UTK's Office of Sustainability for a project that involves environmental sustainability.

Undergraduates are invited to submit projects in 12 divisions. In addition to poster sessions, gallery space will be available for visual art, and performances will be scheduled during awards day. Students may enter as individuals or as groups. They must fill out application and abstract forms and obtain the signature of their faculty advisor, who will send them to division representatives for approval and forwarding to the Office of Research.

Acting on behalf of the Chancellor's Office, the Office of Research administers the exhibition, which is designed to support and reward undergraduate participation in the campus research enterprise, promote undergraduate presentation skills, and encourage mentoring relationships between faculty and students.

Key dates: Noon, February 3, 2012—submission of signed application form to Jane Taylor, UT Office of Research, 1534 White Avenue. Noon, February 24, 2012—email submission of completed abstract form to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu).

March 16, 2012—last day poster boards for presentation are available in the Office of Research.

March 28, 2012, from noon to 4 p.m.—undergraduate participants set up presentations. Judging at 5:30 p.m.

March 29, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.—exhibition open to the public. Awards ceremony is at 6 p.m. All exhibits must be removed immediately after the ceremony.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/eureca/>

Nominations sought for Chancellor's Awards

The Office of Research is soliciting nominations for two Chancellor's Awards for research and creative achievement among UT Knoxville faculty in 2011. The awards encourage excellence in research and creative achievement, emphasize the critical role research and creative achievement play in the professional development of UT faculty, and reinforce the integral nature of research and creative achievement in the mission of the university.

Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement - At the spring Chancellor's Honors Banquet, the chancellor will recognize four junior faculty who have shown exceptional professional promise in research and creative achievement. Each honoree will receive certificate and a \$3,000 award. The awards recognize tenured or tenure-track faculty at the assistant or associate professor rank who have received national and/or international recognition in their fields and show professional promise in their areas of research and creative achievement. Nominees must have a minimum of three years service on the UT faculty and not more than 10 years professional experience beyond their terminal degree by the end of 2011-2012. An individual may receive this award only once.

Research and Creative Achievement - Four senior faculty will also be honored for national and/or international recognition they have received in their fields. Nominees must have more than 10 years of professional experience beyond their terminal degree by the end of 2011-2012 or ten years beyond winning the Chancellor's Award for Professional Promise. Faculty who have been previously nominated are eligible for renomination, but nomination of candidates who have not been selected previously is encouraged. Recipients of the award between spring 2000 and 2011 are not eligible for this competition, nor are UT Distinguished Scientists and Chairs of Excellence.

For both awards, small academic departments or budgetary units may submit the name and credentials of one nominee. Larger departments with 20 or more faculty members may submit two nominations. Nominations must include the appropriate title page (see web sites) and supporting documentation that describes the nominee's accomplishments in his or her field for the previous five years. Greg Reed, vice chancellor for research, will conduct the competitions in cooperation with the Awards Committee of the Research Council.

Key dates: January 27, 2012 at 12:00 noon -- all materials to Research Awards Committee, 1534 White Avenue, CAMPUS 1529, Attn: Jane Taylor. April 9, 2012 -- Chancellor's Honors Banquet

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/ca>

Office collects data on communicating research

The Office of Research is seeking information about the ways UT Knoxville faculty and staff receive news about scholarly research and sponsored programs. A brief survey has been posted to collect responses on Office of Research communications tools and other sources of scholarly/research information that are important to faculty and research-related staff. Please take the short survey to help the office find the most effective ways to give you the information you need.

The survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ORcommunications>

November issue of funding newsletter is online

The November 2011 issue of Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 3) is available on the Office of Research website, showcasing the following features and columns:

- ❖ The Challenge of Integrating Multiple Authors
- ❖ Strategies for Sustainability Research Revisited
- ❖ Graphics as a Narrative Integrator
- ❖ STEM Learning & Activity Models for Proposals
- ❖ Obtaining Copies of NSF Funded Proposals
- ❖ Social Science Components of NSF Proposals
- ❖ Funding International Collaborations from NSF
- ❖ Funding for Grad Students and Postdocs
- ❖ Research Grant Writing Web Resources
- ❖ Educational Grant Writing Web Resources
- ❖ Agency Research News
- ❖ Agency Reports, Workshops & Roadmaps
- ❖ New Funding Opportunities
- ❖ About Academic Research Funding Strategies

NOTE: The newsletter is proprietary to Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC. Our subscription requires faculty and staff to use their net ID and login. The login process does not support all browsers.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/news/rdgw.shtml>

All UT faculty and staff are obligated to report abuse of children

UT’s Office of General Counsel has issued an important reminder about faculty and staff obligations for reporting child abuse and child sexual abuse.

The information, based on Tennessee law, specifies who must report incidents of possible abuse and how the allegation is to be reported. Any person under 18 years of age is defined as a child under the state’s reporting regulations.

The memo from the Office of General Counsel specifies that reporting such abuses to UT police officials does NOT satisfy an individual’s duty to report abuses to the appropriate authorities.

Details: <http://www.tn.gov/youth/childsafety.htm>

Seven UTK undergraduates to present posters on Capitol Hill

Seven undergraduates from the University of Tennessee will put their research before Tennessee legislators at the annual Posters at the Capitol session in the Tennessee State Capitol on February 8, 2012. The event, which also includes students from other state universities, is designed to showcase undergraduate research for the state’s lawmakers while allowing undergraduate scholars a chance to meet their legislators.

The participating students (with their faculty mentors) are

Megan Johnstone (Michael Zemel), “Effect of Branched Chain Amino Acids on Mitochondrial Metabolism and Cell Cycle in Cancer Cells”

Madelyn Crawford (Jeffrey Becker), “Structure and Function Analysis of an Extracellular Loop in a Constitutively Active, C-Terminally Truncated GPCR”

Melissa Bigler (Barry Bruce), “Isolation and Characterization of Monomerized Photosystem I Complexes in Thermosynechococcus elongates”

Jeremy Brooksbank (Tom Zawodzinski), “Electrochemical Characterization of Metal-Triazole Complexes as Oxygen Reduction Reaction Catalysts For PEM Fuel Cell Applications”

Kyter Steffes, Jordan Bailey, Michael Nelson, Sam Bouck (Gregory Spaw), “Ro-CoN: Rotational Molded Concrete”

Luke Waring (Sherry Cable), “Accepting the ‘Green Dragon’: Responding to American Evangelical Anti-Environmentalism through Contextual Analysis of Resisting the Green Dragon”

Sarah Russell (Bruce Wheeler), “‘Stamp Out This Awful Cancer’: Reactions to the Threat of Atheism at the University of Tennessee in 1927”

Four more complete UT proposal-writing certificate

The Office of Research has awarded the Certificate in Grant Writing and Proposal Development to four more individuals: **Lecreisha Ejike-King** (Child and Family Studies), **Lisa Alexander** (Plant Sciences), **Stephanie Kelly** (Communication Studies), and **Gisele Martins-Schoene** (Plant Sciences).

The addition of these four brings to 10 the number of people who have completed requirements for the certificate. All of the Office of Research Professional Development workshops and online courses are available free of charge to UTK faculty, staff, and students.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/training>

CURRENT offers undergrads a chance to do power-grid research

For faculty interested in helping their undergraduate students find a research experience, UT’s Engineering Research Center is offering research opportunities for undergraduates in topics related to the nation’s electric power grid, including power systems, power electronics and drives, alternative energy sources, energy storage, control and communication, power transmission, power market structures, and the social impacts of energy policy. CURRENT, the Center for Ultra-wide-area Resilient Electric Energy Transmission Networks, will provide each student researcher a stipend of \$4,000 plus no-cost campus housing for the eight-to-10-week experience. CURRENT is jointly funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

Key date: February 10, 2012 – application deadline.

Details: <http://current.utk.edu/education/university-education-and-diversity/reu/>

Marco seeks abstracts for undergraduate medieval, Renaissance conference

UT’s Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies is soliciting abstracts for an undergraduate conference focused on the ways classical Roman culture influenced the Middle Ages.

“Ab Urbe Rcondita: The Reception of the Roman Classics in the Middle Ages and Renaissance” is scheduled for March 30, 2012 at UT Knoxville. It is the second such event Marco has scheduled for undergraduates.

Students are encouraged to submit 250-word abstracts (plus name and college affiliation) on topics in archaeology, architecture, art, history, literature, music, philology, philosophy, and theater. Papers exploring Greek influences on medieval Europe are also welcomed.

The Office of Research, the Chancellor’s Honors Program, the Ready for the World program, the School of Art, and the departments of English and History are sponsoring the conference.

Key date: January 16, 2012 submission of abstract to Tyler Denton (tdenton@utk.edu)

AWIS offers travel support for women in STEM

The Association for Women in Science is supporting travel for professional development for any woman who works in a STEM discipline and who has earned at least a bachelor’s degree.

The awards of up to \$3,000 are to allow women to attend a conference, acquire specialized training, or pursue other professional development that takes them away from home. Funds will be available in March 2012.

The AWIS program will accept proposals for funding support for registration, transportation, housing, meals and incidental expenses, or dependent care for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, employed scientists and engineers, or those seeking employment or a return to school. Applications from early-career scientists are especially welcomed.

Key date: December 31, 2011 submission of application packet

Details: <http://www.awis.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=511>

SHORT DEADLINE Homeland Security has research opportunities for undergrads

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has summer research internships available to undergraduates in STEM-related disciplines. UT faculty with exceptional students in any of the following fields should encourage them to consider the internships.

The range of fields includes engineering, computer science, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biological/life sciences, environmental science, emergency and incident management and the social sciences. The projects are located at national research laboratories, at DHS labs, and at other federal research facilities across the country.

The research experiences include 10 weeks of work on a research project with a stipend of \$5,000, plus travel expenses. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

Key date: January 5, 2012 – submission of application

Details: www.orau.gov/dhsinternships

